Meeting on TAP Project

677. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has accepted the observer status in the proposed Turkmenistan—Afghanistan-Pakistan gas project; and

(b) the details fo outcome of the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee of the project held in the third week of October, 2005;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has accepted the invitation to participate in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project as an 'Observer'.

The meeting of the Ministerial Steering Committee of the project, scheduled to take place in October 2005, was postponed. The date of the next meeting of the Steering Committee has not been finalized so far.

Losses suffered by ONGC in Mumbai High fire

678. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fire incident at Mumbai High North on 27th July, 2005 caused extensive damage to life and property, apart from loss of production for a long period;

(b) what is the amount of loss suffered by ONGC on account of this mishap;

(c) what amount is settled by insurance company; and

(d) what steps are taken/initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

The fire incident at Mumbai High on 27th July 2005 caused extensive damage to life and property. ONGC's Platform, MHN (Mumbai High North) in the Mumbai High field caught fire and was completely destroyed and Multi Support Vessel (MSV) Samudra Suraksha sank. 11 persons died. 11 more persons went missing and are presumed to be dead.

The average oil production from Mumbai High field before the accident was 2,61,000 BOPD and gas sales Ex-Uran was approximately, 10.5 MMSCMD. Following the accident, oil production levels came down to approximately, 1,42,000 BOPD and gas sales Ex-Uran to 6.1 MMSCMD, much of which has since been restored.

(b) Quantification of the loss/damage arising out of the MHN fire accident is still being done by ONGC. Based on preliminary estimates, the loss estimated by surveyors/average adjustors pursuant to the accident is about US $375,100,000.

(c) Out of claim of US$ 196,624,504, lodged so far, ONGC has received an amount of US$ 175,080,589 from United India Insurance Company Ltd. towards the insured value of the MHN platform on 15.09.2005.

(d) All installations of ONGC are certified by independent third parties for Quality, Occupational Health & Safety and Environment (QHSE) management system. The following systems and practices are already in place:

- Enhanced co-ordination.
- Mandatory Sea Survival and Basic Fire Fighting for all offshore crew both of ONGC and those working under contractors.
- Modification of Management of change system.
- An independent enquiry committee has been set up to go into the causes of accident and suggest measures for the future.

ONGC's bid for Petro-Kazakhstan

679. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh-Mittal bid for Petro-Kazakhstan has been rejected in favour of China's National Petroleum Corporation